

December 16th, 2011

Appropriations & Human Services Committee

Testimony regarding Individual and Family Support Waiver

Submitted for the record by Nora Duncan, Executive Director

Following the 11/15/11 posting in the CT Law Journal regarding the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) Individual and Family Support Waiver amendments, the following comments were submitted to DDS and the Department of Social Services (DSS) was copied. A timely response from DDS was received, alleviating most of the concern, but it is important for the Committee members to be informed of the process at all levels.

- 1) *"establish the use of the CT Level of Need Assessment and Screening Tool to determine Level of Care"*
 - Is it necessary to codify this requirement or would a policy change, which is much more flexible in its ability to modify later, if necessary, suffice? While the need to move to the LON based rates is clear, the work is not yet completed and it might be useful to keep as much flexibility as possible.
- 2) *"reduce the number of slots in years 3, 4 and 5 to more closely match the actual number of enrolled participants"*
 - While it is clear that there are more slots than budgeted for, concerns have been raised about the impact on the waiting list and feedback on this matter is requested.
- 3) *"reduce the number of slots targeted for high school graduates"*
 - Concerns about long term impact on services at the critical time of high school graduation have been raised and feedback on this matter is requested.

Committee members and staff should not hesitate to contact me for more information at nduncan@arcocct.org or 860-246-6400 x102.

Thank you for your time and consideration.